

Exciter

PROMOTING WORLDWIDE FRIENDSHIP



No. 342

November 1998

<http://rtpnet.org/~rars>

JOTA: Scouts Visit AC4ZO

by Chris, KE4TMO

The 41st annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA), sponsored by the World Organization of the Scout Movement was held October 17-18.

Some scouts from Pack 136 and Troop 316 finagled an invitation from Jeff, AC4ZO, to visit his station and try their hand at some contacts.

The boys had an exciting afternoon talking with scouts in Mexico (fortunately Jeff knows some Spanish), Kansas and Portland Oregon. Jeff gave an extensive tour of this HAM set-up and even helped the boys listen in on a contact with a HAM from Russia.

Scouts also were very impressed with Jeff's "bug and key" collection, Jeff even

tantalised them by tuning in some Morse code activity.

The boys want to thank Jeff for a great time!!! They are already planning to try hooking up with Jeff again next year.

I keep hoping to learn some code myself so we can set up a field station next year.

Any HAMs out there who like to camp that would be interested for a field station next year?

Maybe the scouts will learn the code before I will.

Thanks again Jeff, guys like you making scouting so much more fun!!



Scouts from Pack 136 and Troop 316 operate JOTA with Jeff, AC4ZO

Skywarn Training To Be Held

Merri, KF4OAD

Thomas, KF4JKQ and Skywarn EC for our area, will teach a Skywarning training in Chapel Hill at the Orange County Chapter of the Red Cross Wed. Nov. 18th from 7:30pm-10:00pm.

Whereas the Spotter training offered by the Natinoal Weather Service focuses on weather, the focus of this class will be on improving and expanding radio skills with respect to Skywarn and possible future directions of Skywarn.

For those interested in Skywarn but not aiming to be a net control of Skywarn, this class can benefit hams in the areas listed above. In addition, this class can benefit

local emergency and ARES groups by cross-training individuals in fields related to emergencies/disasters.

Topics to be covered include: general overview of skywarn, proper reporting procedures, and functions of the Skywarn net control. As well as the normal training he will discuss winter weather as it pertains to Skywarn.

Those interested in attending should contact Merri Crawford KF4OAD at KF4OAD@bellsouth.net preferably or by phone at work 932-1122 (fax/phone) or 932-1193 (please do NOT leave voice mail—we never check it) as soon as possible. I need to keep a list of the number of people

attending so we will know whether we need to switch classrooms.

Directions: Take 15-501 into Chapel Hill. Stay to left when splits (right lane goes on other side of Eastgate Shopping Center) Next after intersection by Hotel Europa is Eastgate Shopping Center. Take a left onto Ephesus Church Road (Rams Plaza shopping Center off towards left). Go though one light. Right after that on your right is the Red Cross. Parking on side and in back. If the front door is locked, please enter through the side door.

Anyone with specific questions about the class can contact KF4JKQ, Thomas Babb at Ralskywarn@aol.net.

Order RARS Apparel for the Holidays

Trific Designs, Inc., a small locally owned embroidery company, is offering Raleigh Amateur Radio Society Embroidered Sportswear.

The coats and shirts will include the RARS logo and can also include a callsign for an additional cost. A sales representative will be at the November membership meeting with ordering information and samples of the company's products. Ordering information will also be provided in a future mailing or issue of the Exciter.

THE EXCITER

Israel Pattison, N4ZVU
Editor

The EXCITER is published monthly by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, and is available to its members at no cost. Letters to the Editor, technical articles, items of interest to the amateur radio community and guest editorials are welcomed.

Articles published in the EXCITER do not necessarily represent the views of or carry the endorsement of the society. Articles are printed at the discretion of the editor. No article will be published unless it is accompanied by the name(s) of the person(s) submitting the article.

All submissions to the EXCITER must be submitted to the Editor by the third Tuesday of each month. Articles may be hand written, typed, stored in ASCII format, or submitted electronically, and may be received by the Editor or any society officer.

Amateur radio-related items for sale by the members of the society may be advertised without charge for one issue, but may be resubmitted as often as desired. Only non-commercial classified advertising will be printed in this manner.

Commercial advertisers may contact the EXCITER Editor for advertising rates and sizes. All proceeds from commercial advertising are donations to the society. Please do not use amateur radio as a means of transmitting commercial advertising information or material.

Contributions, inquiries, and comments concerning the EXCITER content, advertising, distribution, and policies should be directed to the EXCITER Editor:

Israel J. Pattison, N4ZVU
PO Box 19212
Raleigh, NC 27619
(919) 782-2643
ipattison@mindspring.com



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Gary, KN4AQ

Fall Is Public-Service Time

The MS-150 gets a feature articles in this issue of the Exciter, but lots of hams have been working on lots of other public-service events this fall. I got a chance to assist the Durham ARES group with their SET exercise. They were able to tie in with a mock crash at the RDU airport, complete with crash victims in makeup.

Hams were stationed at the crash triage site, the incident command center, a transportation area, and at area hospitals. Our job was to send lists of victims (identified by number, not by name), to the hospitals, and confirm their arrival. There were a few kinks to work out, but that's what an exercise is for, and it worked pretty well.

Earlier that morning, half a dozen hams helped the American Diabetes Association with a run at Glaxo's RTP campus.

As this Exciter goes to press, more than 30 hams are helping the Red Cross with communications at the First Aid station at the State Fair. We're covering three 5-hour shifts each day, with two hams per shift, all ten days of the fair. Several hams are taking multiple shifts. The whole thing is being coordinated by Cliff KF4RDP, who picked up the job at pretty much the last minute, and got lots of volunteers at the club meeting, from the RARS-L mailing list, and off a web site he built. Thanks, Cliff, and everyone who's put in public-service time this fall.

Public Service Web Site

One of the problems with recruiting volunteers for public-service is letting everyone know what's coming up so they can plan ahead. To help out, I've put together a web site with calendars showing upcoming events. It grew out of a web site that really worked well to help inform volunteers for the MS-150. It is a continuous work-in-progress, and will succeed if I get lots of information from groups around the area. Check it out at <http://www.rtpnet.org/~rars/public-service> (type carefully).

The link has been removed from the MS-150 web pages until next year, but the pages are still hiding there, and you can

still look at the info the hams worked with by dialing up <http://www.rtpnet.org/~rars/ms-150>.

And while I'm webbing, Tim KF4RTX has been doing a good job at webmaster of RARS web site. Don't forget to check it now and then to see what's new. The address is on the masthead of this issue.

RARS Membership and Repeaters

We had a lively discussion at the October board meeting on how RARS membership is affected by our current lack of repeaters. Our renewal rate is way down from past years, with just over 200 current members in mid-October. It should be at least 275 by now.

The board's consensus is that many members don't think much about RARS without a good repeater to use. That's too bad, but understandable, I guess. My introduction to RARS was by way of the .64 machine when I moved to Raleigh in 1990. I listened and talked some as I commuted to Southern Pines where my dad lived. When I moved into the city, I attended my first RARS meeting, and joined that night.

Well, 200 hams is still a good-size radio club. If the other 200 erstwhile members are strictly repeater users, I guess we'll get them back when the repeater is back up at altitude. Meanwhile, would the 200 of you now within the sound of my keyboard keep the RARS name alive on the other repeaters in the area, on HF, and wherever you meet other hams?

We are doing a lot (Field Day, Hamfest, Classes, public-service, meeting programs...) even if we don't have a repeater up high. But it is harder to let people know about it.

How To Really Get Involved

A perennial topic at the RARS board meetings is how some members want to get involved, but somehow get left out of the "inside" workings of groups. If you're reading this, you've already shown more interest than the average, casual member. We always talk about ways to formalize a process that guarantees you success in busting in, but we've never pulled it off. The trick is for you to be aggressive. If you sit back and wait for an invitation more direct than "we need help, please volunteer," you'll likely never get it.

Continued on Page 6

150 Mile Bike Tour Makes Tired, Happy Hams

by Gary, KN4AQ

I have to walk a fine line in reviewing events like this year's MS-150 Bike Tour. If I tell you about the long hours hams worked and the long distances they had to travel, I risk scaring everyone else off from ever working a public-service event again. Hopefully, they'll tell you how much fun they had, and maybe that will convince you it's worth it.

The MS-150 is a biggie. It's a two-day, 150 mile bicycle tour, a fund raiser for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. This year, more than 500 cyclists raised over \$200,000 for research and support programs for people with MS. MS-150's are held all over the country - there are two more in North Carolina, and amateur radio provides communications for most of them.

Our Tour had some changes this year. Since 1991, MS-150 riders began in Greenville on Saturday, rode to Camp Seagull on the Neuse River, just east of New Bern, to spend the night, then rode back to Greenville on Sunday. In the late 80's, the MS-150 began in Kinston, and rode to the coast and back.

This year Camp Seagull was not available, so the route began closer to home, at the Caterpillar factory in Clayton. Cyclists rode along back roads paralleling US 70 around Goldsboro and into Kinston where they spent the night. On Sunday they continued the trek southeast until they reached the coast at Emerald Isle. From there, they were shipped back to Clayton in chartered busses.

Twenty-three hams helped keep things going, along with more than 100 other vol-

unteers.

Three hams shared Net Control duty, and we wore them out. Dick N1VGY opened his shack, and worked with Thomas KF4JKQ on Saturday, and Pete KN4OO on Sunday to keep radio traffic moving smoothly. This was the first time we've used a fixed station net control, and it really worked well.

There were five rest stops where the cyclists could take a break, get water and snacks (and lunch at Rest Stop 3). Each rest stop had a ham to provide communications: Matt KF4ZSK, Max KO4TV, Jerry KF4DSV, Mark KB2EHJ, Bobbi KD4ZVW, and Jerry KE4TTS each handled Rest Stop duty.

Twelve "SAG" (Support And Gear) Wagons patrolled the course. They picked up riders who've had breakdowns, and those just too pooped to peddle any more, and carried them to the next rest stop. Seven of the SAGs had ham radio communications: Kelly KD4EWG, Merri KF4OAD, Arlene KF4YBI, Steve WA4OEV, Bruce N4UTY and Bruce KC4UQN.

The starting line and finish line were manned with communications each day.

The route had excellent medical support. There was an EMT at each rest stop, and a doctor, with ham communications, travelling the route. Jerry KE4TTS provided the doctor's communications on Saturday, and Mark KB2EHJ took that job on Sunday. Communications for the doctor and EMTs is our most important function.

The Supply Truck is an important job. It carries supplies to each rest stop at the beginning of the day, and makes a second round picking everything back up at the end of the

day. Greg KE4PAX kept the truck in touch all the way.

Pulling everything together are the Chapter President, Robin Betcher, and the Tour Coordinator, Nora Peluso. There are always plenty of questions, and between them, they come up with the answers. And their radio operators, Mark WD4KSE and me (Gary KN4AQ), were run ragged trying to keep up.

And finally, we knew about four hams that were riding the course with HTs monitoring the traffic: Jeff AC4ZO, Cyndi KD4ACW, Bowe KF4HQT and Chris KE4TMO.

We kept radio traffic moving, and kept ourselves clearly coordinated, by using tactical call signs, although we dropped our ham call in at the end of each exchange to satisfy the

need for legal ID. Still, it was a little disconcerting to hear male voices respond to calls for "Robin" and "Nora." At the end of the day on Sunday, the real Nora asked me for the mic, and, in her own voice, thanked all the hams for their time, effort and expertise.

So, how do the hams feel about these long, hard days? They love it. They can't wait for next year. When you talk to any of the folks listed above, ask them (and thank them). As hams, we're brought together by a common interest in radio communication. We learn techniques and gain capability most people don't have. And most of the time, we just use it to talk to each other.

In events like the MS-150, we learn how good it feels to use those skills to help others.

Scanner/SWL SIG Report

by Kelly, AE4FG

This month's meeting of the Scanner/SWL SIG was held on October 19th. The meeting took place at the El Rodeo restaurant on Pleasant Valley Road in Raleigh. A short slide presentation on the Antique Wireless Association conference held in Rochester, NY was given by Bob Zeher. Bob also gave a presentation on ACARS (Aircraft Addressing and Reporting System) Decoding using the WACARS computer program. (www.mike.mcmail.com/acars.html). Eight people attended.

Weekly Net: The Scanner/Shortwave Listening net has been suspended until the 146.64 repeater is back to normal.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Mon-

day, November 16th at El Rodeo restaurant as listed above. The meeting topic will be a discussion on WWII shortwave and broadcast band monitoring. We will meet upstairs for dinner at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7:30.

Anyone is welcome to attend and bring radios or other monitoring information to share with the group.

Special Date for December meeting: Please note that the December meeting will be held on the 14th (second Monday) instead of the 21st. The annual junk box giveaway and magazine swap will take place at this meeting. More details next month.

For more information, e-mail Bob Zeher (ke4jvy@juno.com) or Kelly Mills (ae4fg@juno.com), or call Bob at 481-9107.

Invasion of the Micro-Talkies

by Gary, KN4AQ

They're cute. They're tiny. They've captured a lot of attention. They're the new breed of flea-power micro-talkies from Icom, Yaesu, and Alinco. Are they real, useful radios? Or are they just a wispy confection? Well, not to bias the jury too much, but I have a name for them: Candy-Talkies.

I currently own two models of Candy Talkie, an Icom Q-7, and an Alinco DJ-S11 (the S11 is not the credit-card radio). They're similar in size and appearance, but quite different in price and function.

The Icom Q-7 is a practically full-featured, dual-band radio that receives from 30 MHz to 1310 MHz, has 200 memories, and costs around \$200. The Alinco S-11 is a mono-band 2-meter rig that works only inside the ham band, has just 20 memories, but costs less than \$100. (A companion UHF model is also available, as well as several models of "credit card" size radios).

There isn't room in an Exciter review to cover these radios in depth, and besides, the big magazines have already done that. So these are just my

impressions from using the radios.

The first question: is 300 milliwatts enough power to be useful? And honestly, the simple answer is no. Those of us who use larger HTs regularly, with power output of 2 to 5 watts, have found that they are marginal devices. We learn coverage patterns for our favorite repeaters, but in unknown territory we find we may or may not be able to hit a repeater we hear well. Knock the power down by 10 dB or more, and marginal becomes unusable.

Unusable? Isn't that a little extreme? Perhaps, but I want to make a point. These radios are attractive in both size and price, and you might be tempted to buy one instead of a larger, more expensive radio, hoping it will do the job. There's a pretty good chance they won't do that job.

But that doesn't mean they have no place in your radio arsenal. If you happen to live close enough to a repeater, they'll work fine through that repeater as you knock around the house. They are great short-distance simplex radios, at a hamfest or at the mall. If you have a dual-band mobile and are

adept at crossband repeating, the Q-7 or the UHF version of the Alinco are good components of that system. And the Q-7's wide receiver coverage makes it a great little scanner that just happens to have a low-power transmitter attached.

The incredible shrinking radio has required some innovative design as the amount of real estate on the body of the radio was reduced. The first thing to go was the touch-tone pad. These radios have no means of generating touch-tones at all, although Yaesu's micro, the VX-1, does let you program some auto-dial touch-tone sequences into memory.

Next, we lop off some knobs. The micros have a grand total of one knob each. The Alinco S-11's knob is nostalgically familiar - you turn it up from the bottom, hear and feel a small click as the power comes on, and advance the volume. The Icom Q-7's knob is a multi-function device, but most of the time it's used to change frequencies or memory channels. A pair of pushbuttons on the front panel handles volume adjustment.

In fact, pushbuttons on both radios handle everything else. And there are only a few of those, so most of them do double (or triple!) duty. Both radios employ the Function Button technique of multiplying button versatility, so both radios require some two-handed operation. The Alinco S11 adds a third function to several buttons by having you turn off the radio, hold the button down and turn power back on to toggle the third function. The Q-7 uses

Icom's traditional "set" function technique, with a single button accessing a menu of parameters.

Both radios dedicate a lot of what little size they have to the speaker. That pays off well in surprisingly loud and clear sound for the size radio. Both are designed to operate on AA size batteries (two for the Icom Q-7, three in the Alinco S11). While you can use NiCads, neither radio includes a charger, and neither accommodates any kind of drop-in charger. The Alinco S11 does have a connector for external power (5.5 Volts, not 12 Volts), and you can charge installed NiCads from that connector. The Icom Q-7 has no external power connector at all.

A common way to improve HT performance is to connect a mobile antenna. Even with a 300 mW range radio, that would be an improvement. The Icom Q-7 uses an SMA connector, so you'll need an adapter that is not yet all that common. But with the Alinco S11, you're out of luck. It has a telescoping antenna mounted on a pivot. You can collapse the antenna and rotate it around to fold up snug against the side of the radio, making it an easy package to stuff in a bag or purse. You have to have the antenna extended fully to operate, and there's no way to connect an external antenna. (The UHF model also has a pivot antenna, but it doesn't telescope).

Bottom line - these little gems don't qualify as your first and only HT. But for those of us with radio fever (and next month's rent paid), they're a cute and sometimes even useful addition.

Robert P. Holmes
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Motor Vehicle Negligence
& Workplace Injuries

Smith & Holmes, P.C.
P.O. Box 1069
Raleigh, NC 27602

(919) 832-5000
FAX 832-5080
KE4FUD

OO: Please ID Properly During Public Service Events

by Jeff, AC4ZO

Hi Everybody. A disturbing trend has started here in the Triangle area this summer. I first noticed it during the Hurricane Bonnie exercises, and then again during the SET last weekend, so I think it deserves mentioning here.

The problem is with hams identifying their station (or not) during ARES exercises. I have mentioned this to a few of the persons involved, and was met with everything from thankfulness to hostility, depending on the person. For the hurricane Bonnie exercise, I made numerous phone calls to try to fix the problem. It didn't work. For the SET, I send out OO notices. That may not work either, so I'll try this approach.

Please understand that the purpose of the OO (official observer) is to bring rules violations to the attention of the offending operator (or station), if

the observer thinks the person may not know he is in violation. It is done by volunteers in an effort to keep our fun legal, in order to protect our privileges.

The specific problem I have observed, is that some stations do not identify using their call sign, during an ARES exercise if they are using tactical identifiers. While tactical identifiers work very well for making communications simple, concise, and accurate, it does not fulfill the legal requirement of station identification. I suspect there may be an ARES official somewhere spreading wrong information on this.

Here's what Part 97 says:

97.119.a - Each amateur station, except a space station or telecommand station, must transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every ten minutes during a communication, for the purpose of clearly making the

source of the transmissions from the station known to those receiving the transmissions. No station may transmit unidentified communications or signals, or transmit as the station call sign, any call sign not authorized to the station.

So, what about emergency communications? Well, a drill is not an emergency situation. But what is an emergency? The FCC says this about that:

No provision of these rules prevents the use by an amateur station of any means of radiocommunication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available.

A word about the human aspect of what we do:

I understand that receiving an OO notice is not a pleasant thing. Especially when you have been doing something for the good of the community. But there are two things we need to keep in mind. We don't want anybody to be hurt by what we do, and we want to operator within the rules for the enjoyment of all. That's the purpose of this treatise. It's no fun sending notices either, and its not done without careful consideration. The idea is to make our operation better, not cause hard feelings and problems. It has been my practice to never send a notice for anything I hear on 75 meters, or 2 meters, because of the potential for doing more harm than good. But this situation needs to be taken care of.

RARS December Holiday Party

December's RARS meeting will be a desert spread for your after dinner pleasure (i.e. we are not providing supper) Entertainment

"On the Town," a barbershop quartet, will entertain.

Santa is so busy this year he will be unable to make our event, but he sends his best and will be waiting for those wish lists to be mailed.

We will also be taking donations of dry goods to give to a local food bank - let's all share with others during the season of giving.

To Become A Member of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society...

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS), was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the Greater Triangle area.

The Objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique and to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

All persons interested in amateur radio are eligible to apply for membership

to the club. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year. Regular membership dues are prorated for new members.

Applications for membership may be obtained from club officers, the newsletter editor, or at any RARS meeting.

Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 1998 GENERAL MEETING

by JEFF WITTICH, SECRETARY

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on October 6, 1998 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Clark Avenue.

The meeting was called to order at 7:36p by President Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, who welcomed 82 members and 5 guests. Gary gave the Treasurer's report in the absence of WA4BPJ and said that we have just over 200 members. At this point, the President explained a financial situation that has arisen because some funding that the membership voted to approve last year did not get spent before the end of the fiscal year. Club by-laws require the expenditure to be approved again when that happens. So on motion by KA4NSA, seconded by KF4RDP, the membership voted to approve the expenditure of up to \$13,750 to move RARS repeaters.

The Nominating Committee put forth the names of Cyndi Pearce KD4ACW, and Bill Pond N0WP for the positions of Hamfest Chair and Field Day chair respectively for 1999.

Jeff AC4ZO reported on the activities of the Education Department. He announced the completion of the class for the visually impaired students, and also said that the Fall classes have begun. The fall classes have 6 hams taking code only, and 14 hopefuls, 9 of which are taking code.

Some certificates were then presented. First, KN4AQ presented 5 appreciation certificates from the Club to persons who assisted with the preparation of materials for

the visually impaired class. then, Chuck K4HF, the ARRL Roanoke Division Assistant Director presented 17 Elmer Awards from the ARRL to the class instructors and Elmers. (applause)

Cliff KF4RDP made a plea for volunteers to staff the communications center for the North Carolina State Fair. He then announced that an orientation will follow the meeting now in progress.

Thomas KF4JKQ announced a skywarn net control training session. It is scheduled for November 18, at 7:30p. The location will be the Red Cross Chapter House in Chapel Hill. Interested persons can visit their web site at raltskywarn@aol.com.

Cyndi KD4ACW reported on the hamfest planning. She said that the first meeting has been held, and things are well under way. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18 at N4VQN. All persons interested in helping with the hamfest are invited to attend. Several items concerning the hamfest were then brought up for discussion.

Bobbie KD4ZVW, who has been the RARS Librarian since the library was formed in retiring. She said a few words about the library, and then introduced Monica Rich, the new Librarian. (applause)

Gary KN4AQ asked for help getting N4PNO back on the air. There is some antenna work that has been started there, and needs to be completed. The delay has been caused by some u-bolts that need replacing, and he has not been able to locate the

correct size. Also, a power supply needs to be delivered and installed.

Dick KD4ISC announced that he has brought with him several years of QST magazines to give away. Members were invited to help themselves.

Chuck K4HF gave the Nominating Committee report:

2 year term as officer: Treasurer - David Fix, N4YTO

1 year term as Board Member: Education Director - Lynn Pitegoff, KO4QH; Exciter Editor - Israel Pattison, N4ZVU; FM Chairman - Bernard Blackmon, KC4UPX; Webmaster - Tim Nicholson, KF4RTX; At Large Directors - Wilbur Goss, WD4RDT and Alan Pitegoff, AB4OZ; ARRL Liason - Chuck Littlewood, K4HF; W4DW/W4RNC Trustee - Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ; VE Chairman - Charlie Brown, W4VFJ.

Lyn W4WDN announced a get together of QRPers on November 14 at the Jones Lake State Park. Contact Lyn for more information.

With that completing the announcements, Gary stated that there had been a last minute change in the program for the evening. The guest speaker, a representative from the Cary 911 Center had computer problems while setting up before the meeting. She asked to be rescheduled at a later date, so for the program, we enjoyed a KN4AQ video production of Field Day, 1998.

Door prizes went to WA4GIR, KF4RDP, and KF4WXA.

President's Corner Continued from Page 2

Whether it's repeater construction, hamfest organizing, putting on a program at a meeting, teaching a class... you've got to bully your way in, at least a little. Once you're "on the radar screen" of the person leading the activity, you'll be in. In a few years, you'll likely be the person in charge yourself, wondering

how to get others interested in your project.

No, we can't afford to be that selective. But we are, because the people running our various shows are spending most of their time and energy getting the job done. There's not a lot left over to spend on recruiting and training. I wish I could make it easier, but I don't know how.

Repeaters

Everyone wants to know when the repeaters will be back up. I'm tempted to make some optimistic guesses, but I won't. We've hit some snags getting a building built to house the 444.525 and 224.64 machines at the site in north Raleigh, but Bernard thinks that's been worked out and we'll get them underway. 64's new tower needed custom-made brackets to

hold our antenna, and those are being made. So there's progress, but none of it counts until you hear the signals back on the air. I'm tempted to tell you how much I've learned about simplex coverage around Raleigh, but perhaps another time. Give me a call on 147.42 sometime and we'll try it out.

See you at the Auction!

Meeting Minutes

SEPTEMBER 1998 BOARD MEETING

by JEFF WITTICH, SECRETARY

The monthly Board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on September 15. The meeting was called to order by KN4AQ at 7:33p. Members present were: KN4AQ, KE4FCJ, K4HF, KE4OQO, KO4QH, WD4RDT, KC4UPX, W4VFJ, and AC4ZO. The total attendance was 15.

The minutes of the August meeting were reviewed. On motion by K4HF, seconded by KE4FCJ, the minutes were approved.

AC4ZO gave the Treasurer's report in the absence of WA4BPJ. He said that RARS membership is 201. There was some confusion a month or so ago about our account at Kinko's. It has been investigated, and we now have a credit in the amount of \$426.76 with them.

Committee Reports:

KC4UPX gave the FM Committee report. He said that progress is once again being made on both the Bayleaf site and the new site for the 146.64 machine. Then a question concerning funding the installations was brought up. A motion was made by KC4UPX, seconded by W4VFJ that we recommend that the membership renew the authorization of an expenditure of \$13,750 for repeater relocation. The motion passed. (On June 3, 1997, the membership voted to approve this expenditure. The fiscal year boundary was crossed before the funding was disbursed. The bylaws require a new approval by the membership when that happens. - SEC.)

KO4QH, reporting on the Education Department announced that the fall classes will begin on October 5, if enough students are enrolled. Registration has been going slower than normal. AC4ZO reported on the class for the visually impaired students. He said that the test session is scheduled for tomorrow night, and then read aloud two email messages he had received: One from ARRL Headquarters, and the other from the Indiana School for the Blind.

KE4FCJ reported on Membership

Services. She said that our membership is low because of our position in the renewal cycle. Also, we are in desperate need of a librarian. Pat then asked for ideas for the RARS Holiday party, and several ideas were discussed.

Israel N4ZVU reported on the Exciter. He apologized for the late mailing of the September issue, and announced that the deadline for the October issue is being extended by two days because of the fifth Tuesday this month. Also, Israel has identified another printer that can do the job, and he is evaluating the cost.

Unfinished Business:

KN4AQ gave the status of the tax-exempt initiative. There has been no change since last month.

A Nominating Committee was appointed by the President. The committee consists of K4HF, KO4QH, and AB4OZ.

New Business:

KN4AQ said a few words about RARS activity in the areas public service events, thus illustrating the need for RARS to reinstate the position of Public Service Director. The Nominating Committee will seek a candidate for this position.

The North Carolina State Fair is quickly approaching, and a person is needed to handle the responsibility of scheduling operators for the Red Cross during the fair.

Cliff, KF4RDP accepted the job.

Board member Announcements and Comments:

KF4RTX — Web page updates are going well, with more changes forthcoming.

W4VFJ — Thanked all who have been involved with the class for the blind students.

AB4OZ — Commented on another club's voting system for repeater receive sites.

On motion by KE4FCJ, seconded by KO4QH, the meeting adjourned at 10:04p.

RARS Officers

President

Gary Pearce, KN4AQ
116 Waterfall Court
Cary, NC 27511
(919) 380-7286
kn4aq@ipass.net

Vice President

Pat Fix, KE4FCJ
324 Silverberry Court
Cary, NC 27513
(919) 677-8320
pfix@pagesz.net

Secretary

Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO
211 Dundalk Way
Cary, NC 27511
(919) 362-9456
jwittich@pagesz.net

Treasurer

Mike Murphy, WA4BPJ
7329 Barberry Court
Raleigh, NC 27515
(919) 847-4641

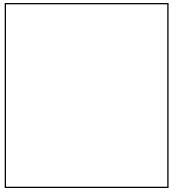
Amateur Radio Electronics Home of 'Uncle Joe's Ham Shack'

**Need antenna supplies right away
(coax, wire, connectors, and more)?**

Call Uncle Joe anytime!

Need a Comtelco Mobile or Mag mount antenna? Call Uncle Joe anytime!
Please visit 'Uncle Joe's Ham Shack' at
www.ipass.net/~wb5zpq/are1.htm

Joe Saah WB5ZPQ
wb5zpq@juno.com
Garner, NC
779-5659



Amateur Radio -- A National Resource
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 17124
Raleigh, NC 27619

NOVEMBER 1998 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2	3 RARS Auction. Forest Hills Baptist Church 7:30pm	4	5	6	7 Myrtle Beach Hamfest ARRL Sweepstakes, CW	8 ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Benson Hamfest
16 Scanner/SWL SIG Mtg. 6:30pm El Rodeo, Pleasant Valley Rd.	17 RARS Board Mtg. 7:30pm Forest Hills Baptist Church	18	19	20	21 ARRL Sweepstake, Phone	22 NASCAR Days Special Event St. ARRL Sweepstake, Phone
23	24 RARS Crystals Mtg. Contact Lynn, KO4QH, 787-1111	25	26	27	28	29
30	1 RARS Holiday Celebration, Forest Hills Baptist Church, 7:30pm	2	3	4	5 ARRL 160m Contest	6 Greensboro Hamfest ARRL 160m Contest